

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 05292 081520Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 SAA-01 SES-02 (ISO) W
-----073691 092321Z /66

R 081453Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9595
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 05292

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, GW, LE, SY, IS
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH FRG AMBASSADOR PECKERT

REF: DAMASCUS 5173

1. FRG AMBASSADOR PECKERT MADE HIS DEMARCHE YESTERDAY
SEPTEMBER 7, WITH SARG DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
JOUETJATI. PECKERT SAID THAT HE HAD FOLLOWED HIS "SOFT"
INSTRUCTIONS BY EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THE SYRIANS
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WOULD DISCONTINUE THEIR DISPROPORTIONATE ACTIONS IN
LEBANON AND WOULD ENDEAVOR TO AVOID A MAJOR
CONFRONTATION.

2. PECKERT ALSO REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT AL-ASSAD HAD
SENT WORD THAT HE WISHED TO MAKE AN ADJUSTMENT IN THE
SCHEDULE PLANNED FOR HIM IN GERMANY NEXT WEEK. ORIGINAL

PLANS HAD CALLED FOR ASSAD TO LEAVE ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, TO GIVE HIM AN OPPROTUNITY TO REST BEFORE COMMENCING HIS PROGRAM ON MONDAY MORNING. ASSAD SAID THAT HE DID NOT WISH A DAY OF REST BUT RATHER WISHED TO LEAVE DAMASCUS EARLY MONDAY MORNING AND START RIGHT IN WITH HIS FULL SCHEDULE UPON ARRIVAL IN BONN ON MONDAY. THE REASON HE GAVE WAS THAT HE WISHED TO SPIKE RUMORS THAT HE IS ILL. A SCHEDULE THAT INCLUDED A DAY OF REST, ASSAD FELT, WOULD TEND TO CONFIRM THESE RUMORS.

3. COMMENT: FOREGOING INDICATION OF ASSAD'S SENSITIVITY TO REPORTS OF HIS ILLNESS AND HIS STRONG DESIRE TO REFUTE THEM CAN BE READ IN TWO WAYS; EITHER HE IS NOT SERIOUSLY ILL AND WANTS TO DEMONSTRATE THIS; OR HE IS ILL -- THOUGH NOT AS YET SERIOUSLY ENOUGH TO AFFECT HIS HECTIC WORK HABITS -- AND HE WANTS FOR OBVIOUS REASONS TO HAVE PEOPLE BELIEVE OTHERWISE. SEELYE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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